

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Wilcom Farmstead Inventory Number: F-7-142  
Address: East side of Big Woods Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Ijamsville Zip Code: 21754 County: Frederick  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Urbana  
Property Owner: John Wilcom, Jr. et al and Mary Jane Dudderar Tax Account ID Number: 210647  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 25 Tax Map Number: 97  
Project: Maryland 80 at Ijamsville Road Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration  
Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration  
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 12/29/2005

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes

visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Wilcom Farmstead consists of a circa 1800 brick house and a collection of agricultural buildings that include barns and silos. Only partial access to the site was granted as part of the survey. The property is located on the east side of Big Woods Road, south of the intersection with MD 80 on a parcel of land that is 148 acres in size.

The residence is a modest two-story brick house that is devoid of architectural ornamentation. It has a rectangular footprint and a side-gable roof that is covered in standing-seam metal. A single-story, full-width, shed-roof porch covers part of the façade and appears to have been added after the original construction. Original windows have been obscured with the installation of air-conditioning units and also by an immense stack of firewood on the porch, but appear to have been four-over-four, double-hung sash configurations. A brick chimney extends from the ridge line. A covered entrance extension extends from the side of the house. The house is in poor condition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Tamburro  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/9/06  
Date

B. Kuntz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/9/06  
Date

200600067

Agricultural buildings dominate the site. Silos of varying heights from different eras are present. They are concrete construction with hemispherical domes and likely date to the first half of the twentieth century. A deteriorated gambrel roof barn constructed of wood and concrete blocks has a metal roof with ridgeline ventilators. Double sliding doors allow access to the barn, and a series of small windows provide light and ventilation. Doors to the hay loft are present on the roof and in the gambrel area. An attached gable-roof milking parlor is present. These buildings all relate to dairy farming and are clustered together. A slight distance away, a gable-roof barn is present. It is clad in vertical wood boards that are substantially deteriorated and the roof is covered with corrugated metal panels. A dilapidated frame shed is located nearby.

The majority of the parcel of land is devoid of buildings and includes both open fields (no longer in cultivation) and second-growth trees. Woven-wire fences are placed sporadically around the property.

#### History and Significance

The Wilcom Farmstead is located in Ijamsville, an agricultural community in Frederick County. The property contains examples of common agricultural building types, including barns and silos. The site was used as a dairy farm, but is no longer in agricultural use. Both the gambrel-roof barn and the gable-roof barn are ubiquitous building types in the agricultural regions of western Maryland, as are the silos. These building forms were commonly constructed in the early twentieth century and do not date to the same period as the house.

The larger gambrel-roof barn is consistent with the general form of the Wisconsin dairy barn prototype, which was promulgated in agricultural journals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Designed by the agricultural engineers at the University of Wisconsin, the barn displayed a logical floorplan that allowed cattle to circulate freely for milking and other routine movement. Wisconsin dairy barn designs included a large number of windows, which were not commonly found on barn design. This allowed light and air circulation into the space, which was thought to promote superior cattle health and increase resistance to common cattle diseases, such as brucellosis. Because the plans were heavily promoted in journals and also by local extension agents, Wisconsin dairy barns became ubiquitous throughout the United States, and numerous examples can still be found in almost any part of the nation that practices dairy farming.

While the house dates to 1800, it has been altered by the addition of the full-width porch that now dominates the façade. Insensitive alterations and maintenance has compromised the historic character of the building. Because the house and agricultural buildings are from different eras, the site lacks a cohesive appearance and period of significance. Within Frederick County and other western Maryland counties, there are numerous other agricultural properties that present a more unified historic appearance and that have higher levels of integrity. Most notably, the Singleton Burgee House (F-7-6), located less than one mile to the east, contains a better preserved circa 1800 house and associated agricultural buildings.

The cultural landscape of the farmstead is negatively impacted by the haphazard placement of buildings and the lack of unified land use patterns. Few fence or field patterns remain.

The Wilcom Farmstead is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with significant events in history that would make it eligible under National Register Criterion A. It is also not associated with significant persons, and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C. It is not an architecturally significant farmstead. The property does not convey agricultural or architectural significance because of the disjointed construction eras of the buildings that result in a lack of site cohesion. The property also lacks integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The entire property was not evaluated for significance under Criterion D as part of this documentation.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

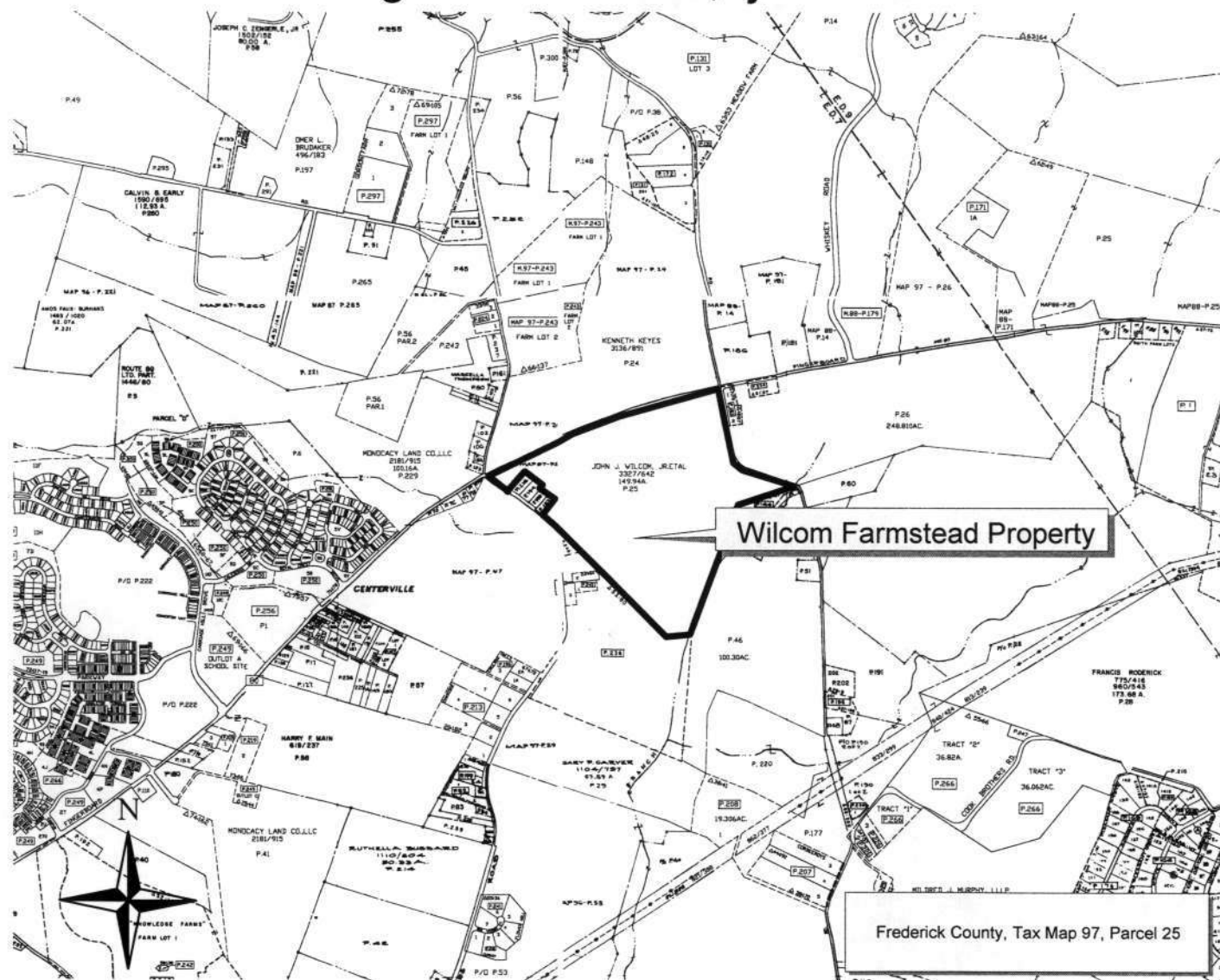
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Parcel Map

## Wilcom Farmstead (F-7-142)

### Big Woods Road, Ijamsville



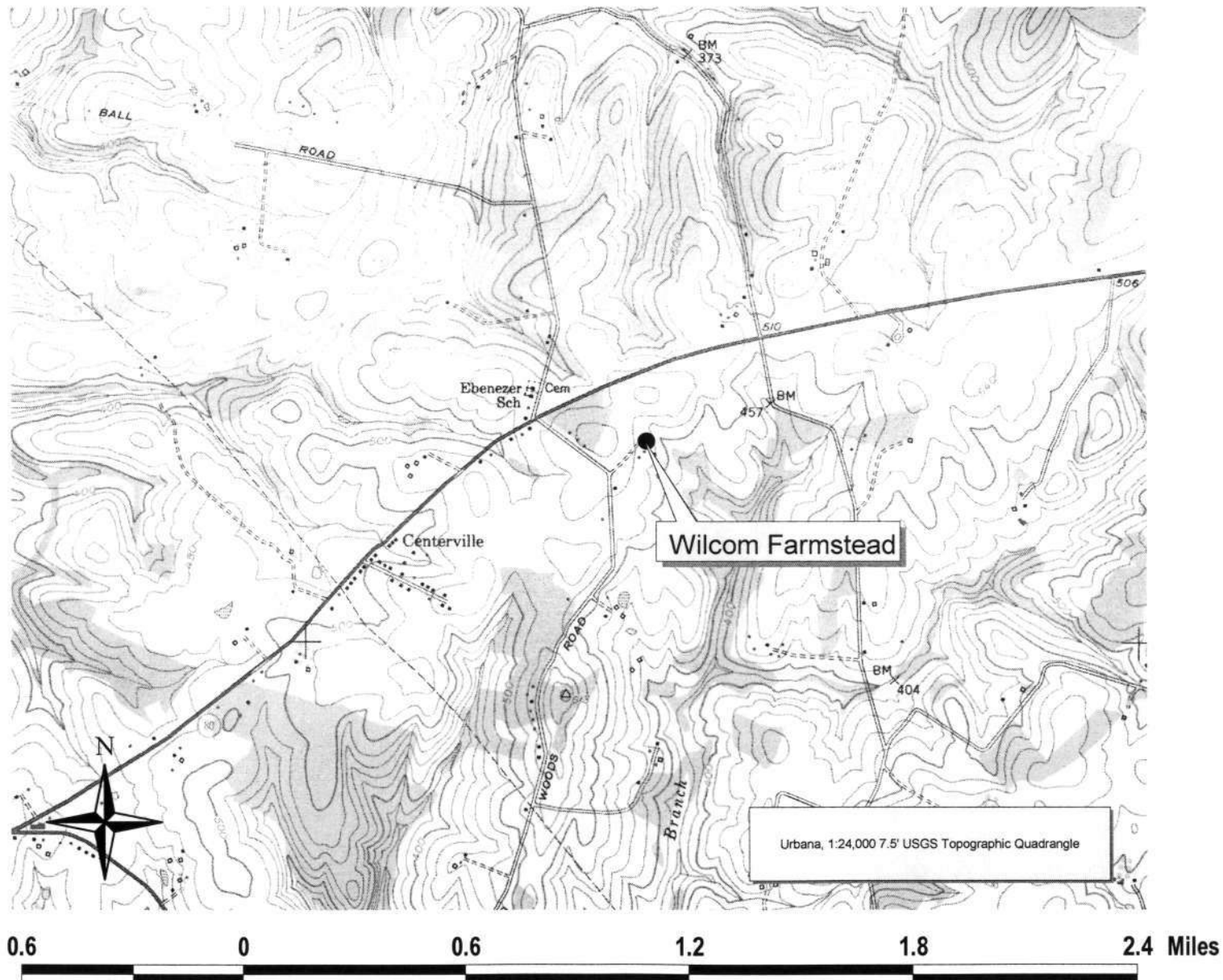
Frederick County, Tax Map 97, Parcel 25



# Locator Map

## Wilcom Farmstead ( F-7-142)

### Big Woods Road, Ijamsville





F-7-142

Wilcom Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

S. Foell

12/2005

MD SHPO

View of residence; view to the northeast

1/5





F-7-142

Wilcom Farmstead

Frederick Co, MD

S. Foell

12/2005

MD SHPO

View of agricultural buildings; view to the  
southeast

2/5





F-7-142

Wilcom Farmstead

Frederick Co., MD

S. Fall

12/2005

MD SHPO

View of agricultural buildings, view to the  
southeast

3/5



F-7-142

Wilcom Farmstead  
Frederick Co, MD

S. Foell

12/2005

MD SHPO

View of dairy barn and silo; view to the  
southeast.

4/5



F-7-142

Wilcom Farmstead  
Frederick Co., MD

S. Foll

12/2005

MD SHPO

View of barn and silo; view to the  
southeast

5/5